

ON

MECHANICAL POWER

IN THE

THE CURE OF HERNIA.



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ON  
MECHANICAL POWER  
IN THE  
CURE OF HERNIA:  
PRACTICALLY ADAPTED  
TO PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS, AND THOSE AFFLICTED WITH  
RUPTURES.

By JOSEPH EGG,  
INVENTOR OF THE SIMPLE, PATENT SELF-RESISTING AND  
ADJUSTING GERMAN TRUSS, WITHOUT STRAPS.

London:  
LONGMAN, REES, ORME, AND BROWNE,  
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THE  
CURE OF HERNIA,  
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MECHANICAL POWER.

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SURGEONS of eminence and experience, whether accurately or inaccurately it is not my province to decide, have asserted, and in print too, that one in eight, of the whole human species, is afflicted with Hernia; and, according to the Rupture Society of London, after “the most diligent and general inquiries, throughout the kingdom,” one in fifteen of the population, male and female, of all ages, throughout this country, are ruptured.

Strange as it may appear, the dangers attendant on Hernia are increased by the frequently harmless nature of the complaint, which blinds those who have it to their susceptibility

of fatal results, from violent exercises and sudden impulses.

Having premised thus much, as to the frequency, inconvenience, and imminent danger, to which those even slightly ruptured are momentarily exposed, they will not, I presume, be displeased to know the short and inestimable truth that, although they may have laboured under the pressure of this disease during the greater part, or the whole of an unusually protracted life, they may now be restored to a sound state of body, by a self-acting mechanical application, in the space of a comparatively few days, and without the slightest confinement or personal inconvenience !

It is universally admitted that Hernia, vulgarly designated Rupture, is only susceptible of relief by the application of a truss. The principle of all trusses, which are constructed for this purpose, is pressure ; and this pressure it is endeavoured to increase, or to diminish, not according to the supposed necessity of the patient, but according to what the patient may

be able to bear ; and, as the physical power to endure rarely equals the necessity for endurance, the mere Truss-maker has no means of adapting the power to the necessity, relief rarely, and a cure still more rarely, can be hoped for. Indeed, when a cure has, by this application, been performed, it is wholly the result of accident, without any reference to the skill either of the fabricator of the truss, or of the person who applies it to the part which requires such assistance. In point of fact, a bandage, on the common principle, has the same chance of efficacy as a truss. It may happen to afford the desired support and pressure, on the exact point where it is required ; and in such an event, not only relief, but even permanent cure will be the result, unless the extreme age of the patient have deprived nature of its restorative power.

The scientific anatomist will, indeed, be able to discover the almost mathematical point to which the application should be made ; but it rarely happens, that even the combined science of the anatomist with the art of the

mechanic, can adapt the instrument suitably to the necessity and physical power of endurance, a discovery which was reserved for the writer of this.

Herniæ, or Ruptures, demand powers as varying as themselves ; but it generally happens that, in proportion to the greater pressure required to effect the cure is the extreme sensitiveness of the morbid part ; so that, as its call for mechanical pressure increases, its means of endurance diminish : hence the state of the sufferer was utterly hopeless, until the merest accident disclosed the means of affording permanent relief and cure to their present possessor.

This was precisely the accident on which depended the accomplishment of Sir Astley Cooper's grand *desideratum*—a strong and easy truss. It was “ one of these happy accidents ” alluded to by one of the most perspicuous writers, in one of the most valuable and interesting books of the present day—  
*“ A preliminary Discourse on the Study of*



*Natural Philosophy*, by JOHN FREDERICK WILLIAM HERSCHEL, A.M. late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge," p. 357 :—

“ In speculating on the future prospects of  
 “ physical science, we should not be justified  
 “ in leaving out of consideration the proba-  
 “ bility, or rather certainty, of the occasional  
 “ occurrence of those happy accidents, which  
 “ have had so powerful an influence on the  
 “ past; occasions where a fortunate combina-  
 “ tion, opportunely noticed, may admit us, in  
 “ an instant, to the knowledge of which no sus-  
 “ picion might occur, but for some such ca-  
 “ sual notice—Boyle has entitled one of his  
 “ Essays, thus remarkably—‘ Of Man’s great  
 “ ‘ Ignorance of the Uses of natural Things;  
 “ ‘ or that there is no one Thing in Nature,  
 “ ‘ whereof the Uses to human Life are yet  
 “ ‘ thoroughly understood.’ The whole his-  
 “ tory of the arts, since Boyle’s time, has  
 “ been one continued comment on the text.”

Suppose the extreme case of a person afflicted with Hernia, which requires a pres-

sure equal to the weight of fifteen pounds ; when the infirmity of the part will disable the sufferer from existing, under an application which shall exceed three pounds,—what chance of relief can he, reasonably, have ? Besides, every truss, in common use, acts by pressure ; therefore, to annihilate the elasticity of that spring, on the pressure of which depends the sole chance of relief, is to convert it into a mere bandage, and that bandage utterly inadequate to effect what only it professes to accomplish.

The common truss, particularly that which is designated “Meehanical,” and acts solely by pressure, is so constructed that, if its pressure equal a weight of seven pounds on the ruptured part, it presses in an equal degree upon the spine, where pressure is not only not wanted, but cannot be sustained, without the risk of very serious danger. I have been applied to by persons whose spines have been brought into an unequivocal state of decay, from the constant pressure inflicted, by this “Meehanical” truss, upon the part.

Of a somewhat better description, is the truss which, being strapped round the body, is reduced to a mere bandage; for although this may compress the shape, so as to give it a wasp-like appearance, it still distributes the pressure, throughout the entire round, with some degree of equality, and is not so likely to become injurious, though its efficacy, even as to relief (much less cure), may very well be questioned; neither is it always freed from the infliction of even severe injuries.

Another truss is designated the “Spring Truss.” This is likewise strapped on, as tight as the spring will permit; of course, by this method of fastening, it becomes a bandage, and, until it is fastened, the spring does not act at all. In short, the trusses, one and all (excepting only that which I have introduced, and which is solely manufactured by, and to be obtained from myself), act entirely by pressure, which they have no means of regulating, other than by tightening or relaxing the straps. Beyond this, they, it is true, can change the spring for one of greater power, or supply an

additional spring; but all these contrivances only serve to increase the torture of their already agonised patients, without giving them any facilities of endurance; and we still are forced to recur to Sir Astley Cooper's anxious research—for a strong truss, and an easy one!

Sir Astley Cooper, when a young man, was so fortunate as to cure himself of Hernia, by combining the usual method with his own knowledge of anatomy, and thence, being enabled to fix the truss or bandage at once in its exact position, and, by constant and unremitted vigilance, keep it immovably in its proper place; but this could not have been effected in any other person, neither has even Sir Astley Cooper's anatomical skill, however sedulously, perseveringly, and incessantly applied to this object, succeeded in doing that for others, which he was enabled to do for himself.

As the recently-quoted Herschel says, on “powers not yet subdued to our purpose,”—*p.* 63—“such are the forces which nature

“ lends us, for the accomplishment of our pur-  
 “ poses, and which *it is the province of prac-*  
 “ *tical mechanics to teach us to combine and*  
 “ *apply in the most advantageous manner;*  
 “ *without which the* MERE COMMAND OF  
 “ POWER WOULD AMOUNT TO NOTHING.”

The method which I adopt, for the cure of Hernia, is purely mechanical, and its successful result certain. The period for which the rupture may have existed is immaterial. Should it even have been of twenty years standing, or co-eval with the patient, is of no consequence; the result will be equally certain. At the end of a short time, the instrument may be removed, by the patient himself, who will be enabled at once to ascertain whether the instrument be so appropriate to his particular case, as to effect his cure.

In a case of excessive duration, suppose thirty or forty years, the rupture will protrude, often making a most unseemly appearance, night and day; yet, after the patient have applied my instrument for three or four

weeks, and then take it off, the rupture will, perhaps, stay up of itself, at night, though it had never done so for years previously.

The curative process will display its powers thus:—*First*, the rupture will remain up, without the truss, during the time the patient sleeps. *Secondly*, in about a month, it will sustain itself, while he takes a few turns up and down his chamber. *Thirdly*, in another month, he may walk a couple of miles at a stretch, divested of the instrument, and without being subjected to the least inconvenience whatever. After having accomplished this last test of the efficacy of the instrument, and its suitability to the individual case, it must remain on, until the cure be perfected; the instrument, when brought to this point, requiring no further regulation.

Sir Astley Cooper, as we have seen, expressed the want of a strong truss, but an easy one. He did not know—what any mechanic could have told him—that it was impossible, as referring to the truss, in common use; for, if its

pressure be great, it must, of necessity, be, in an equal proportion, painful to the wearer; whereas I can apply any power of resistance, which may be necessary, without the least inconvenience to the person who makes use of it.

Hernia, like other complaints, is sometimes constitutional; at least, we must suppose it to be so, when it attacks all the members of a family.

Such is the case with a gentleman and six children, all of whom I have had the pleasure, not only of relieving, but curing. These, I am happy to say, are among the numerous living instances of my successful exertions, of which I could, were it necessary, furnish proofs without end.

Those which I subjoin are merely chosen on account of some little interest which, in my humble opinion, attaches to them. Although I do not give the names of the parties in print, I have no objection to communicate them, in confidence, to render any public service.

A nobleman, resident in Ireland, and who had been recommended to me by Sir Patrick M'Gregor, was, some short time back, afflicted with Hernia. He came to London, and I effected his complete cure, in less than three months. On his return to the sister island, he, as in casual conversation, asked a surgeon of considerable eminence his opinion of Hernia, whether it were a disease which prevailed much in Ireland, and whether he thought its cure practicable?

The surgeon stated, that great numbers were ruptured in his own neighbourhood, was a fact indisputable, and very much within his own knowledge,—that, as to cures, they had been performed, but were the result of accident, and not of professional skill; that one, who could bear the pressure necessary to ensure his cure, might certainly be cured, though, at the best, it was a bad alternative, for it was one of those in which the remedy would be found worse than the disease. The nobleman did not, at that time, mention the circumstance of his own misfortune and cure to the surgeon.



This was one of the instances in which a cure might have been performed, by the common method, could the patient have borne that pressure, which the means usually resorted to would inflict; but the parts were so sensitive as to render it absolutely impossible.

When I was going through Paris, my notice was attracted by a very large shop, which I found was considered one of the first in France. Its proprietor designated himself Surgeon-Truss Maker. The trusses were all on one and the same principle, similar to those in this country! Though I knew perfectly well what they were, I told him I wanted a truss for a friend, and looked at his assortment. He produced one, which was very handsomely covered. I told him the spring could be of no use. He admitted that the only use of the spring was to prevent the leather from crumpling. This I, as a mechanic, knew to be the honest truth. If you put on a truss, which does not act, it is no instrument; and if you strap it sufficiently tight, to effect the desired pressure, it becomes a bandage.

I asked him how he kept up Herniæ of large dimensions? He replied, Oh! we manage them as well as we can. On my telling him that I wanted one, the spring of which would do the business, he acknowledged that he did not make them.

If every surgeon did not know, as well as Sir Astley Cooper, that a strong truss, and an easy one, was what was wanted, all their suffering patients felt it, from sad experience; and every surgeon who had seriously given his attention to the subject, must be aware, that Hernia could only be curable, when that *desideratum* should be obtained; and which I have, happily, at length supplied, as thousands can testify in their own persons.

The trusses, in Germany as well as in France, are the same as those which had so long disgraced surgical science, and the art of its mechanical adaptation, in England. A German quack, who professed to cure Hernia, adopted this mode with his patients:—he took such a truss as is still too often applied,

by interested persons, to the ignorant, and conducted his patient into the Black Forest, near to which the practitioner resided. He then, having made him strip himself completely naked, fastened on a truss, and conducted the man, naked as he was, to a young tree. To this, having especially directed the credulous creature's attention, the empiric split it down the middle, and holding the two halves apart, made the patient pass through the divided trunk, which he immediately bound firmly together with a cord. He next impressed on the poor fellow, that his truss must never be moved, until the tree had united itself, assuring him that his rupture would heal exactly as the tree knitted, and that, when it had completely grown together, the patient's rupture would do the same, and in a precisely similar way, and he would become perfectly sound, but not till then.

In a similar manner would the Hottentot proceed, regardless of the agonies he might inflict, to cure the same complaint.

The truss of the German quack, and of the Hottentot, would in no wise prove deficient of strength, any more than the truss of any of our common mechanical makers; but where was the ease to be found? Sir Astley Cooper's strong and easy had not yet been combined, or, at least, its knowledge had not reached the Black Forest, and the interior of Africa!!

All this is very pleasant, inasmuch as it may excite a smile in the countenances of us, who are blessed with a sound state of health—the *mens sana in corpore sano*; but it furnishes ample matter of reflection, that the most civilised portion of the globe, Europe, and the most highly-polished capitals of that portion, London, Paris, and Vienna, where the arts and sciences have progressed, and daily continue to advance, with a speed which absolutely sets all calculation at nought—that, in a point personally interesting the health and well-being, not only of units, of tens, of hundreds, and of thousands, but of hundreds

of thousands, and millions, of our fellow-creatures, should have been scarcely advanced two degrees beyond the ingenuity of a savage of the rudest caste ; yet such is the melancholy fact : and I appeal to every man of liberal education and humanity, and especially to the learned, talented, and scientific members of a liberal profession, for such has the healing art ever been considered, no longer to suffer those instruments of torture, designated trusses, but, in reality, bandages, to be applied to patients under the sanction of those who cannot help confessing, that Hernia, as far as their knowledge goes, is incurable (and I say the same, generally, except by a strong truss, and an easy one).

Patients, indeed, they may well be termed, and severe and lengthened have been their trials of patience ! Most truly may they exclaim with the frogs in the fable : this may be sport to you, but it is death to us.

Lord ———, passing through his hall, was greeted by a sailor, whom he immediately

recognised. The poor fellow, who had a wife and child, pleaded his distress, being unable to get a livelihood, on account of a severe rupture.

His lordship, with a characteristic good nature which cannot be too highly appreciated, instead of desiring the sailor to call another time, went to his room, in the hope of selecting, from among his own trusses, one which might suit the case of the distressed sailor. Lord ——— not finding a truss to his liking, wrote to me, desiring that I would furnish the seaman, who presented the letter, with a truss of the very best quality, similar to what had cured the respected writer himself. This was done, and the petitioner gratefully resumed his labours, and, I understand, is now cured.

A noble relation of the former, but at a very advanced period of life, applied to me for a truss, without making himself known. He was furnished to his satisfaction, and embarked with his family for Italy. He had not been long in that country when his

truss broke, and he instantly set off to obtain another.

Expense was of no consequence to his lordship, who, on this second visit, gave me his card, which, like many others, he did not at first choose to do.

Amplly, indeed, has his lordship been requited, I am happy to say, in his personal health, strength, and means of enjoyment, as can be testified by those who, from having been long accustomed to see him creep about the house with fear and trembling, now meet him as capable as themselves to share, as well as to relish, the sports of the field and the exercise of the turf, either at Newmarket or elsewhere.

Those, whose circumstances are such as to make a few pounds of no consequence, should certainly no more risk so great a blessing as health, on one truss, than a merchant or captain should risk his ship and cargo on the frail tenure of a single anchor and cable.

Mr. Keate attended a nobleman of the first distinction, for a double rupture, which had been down incessantly, night and day, for between thirty and forty years: this was the more severely felt, the opulence of the nobleman making expense, however great, not worth a moment's consideration; and the sufferer being much addicted to field and other active sports and exercises. Moreover, he had thrown away a fortune in various experimental kinds of trusses, without deriving any permanent advantage whatever; which is, assuredly, not saying much for the mechanical art, or ability, displayed by the manufacturers of the trusses hitherto employed; having found, as I before stated, one no better than another.

Mr. Keate, from his long experience, in this and in other cases of the like nature, had no faith in the possibility of relief being obtained by any human means. Notwithstanding the age of the noble patient, who had then passed eighty, I had the pleasure of dispelling Mr. Keate's scepticism, by the construction and application of an instrument,



which he could manage for himself without any assistance.

This being altogether a case of more than common importance, in whatever view it may be regarded, I shall stand excused, in adopting what might otherwise be thought an empirical kind of detail—namely, that the circumference of the rupture, on the right, was fifteen, and on the left side ten inches.

When this nobleman returned to town, which was in the course of a few months, I called to inquire after him, and was delighted, and, I must confess, surprised to learn, that the rupture had not once been down since I had fitted the instrument. On examining the parts, and finding that the rupture on the left side was completely cured, I suggested to his lordship my wish to construct another instrument, as I was confident, from the success which had crowned my former endeavours, I should not be less happy in my application to the right side. I fitted my new instrument accordingly, and on making inquiry, in about

three weeks afterwards, I learned, as I anticipated, that the rupture had not been down for the last five or six days. To shorten the narrative, in the course of two months the noble lord was able to discontinue the instrument, when in his room, without the slightest appearance of rupture on either side.

I think it right to acknowledge that my hopes, in the case of his lordship, considering his very advanced age, and the long duration of his complaint, which might, not unreasonably, have been looked upon as part and parcel of his constitutional frame, did not extend beyond affording relief and ease; for, as to a perfect cure, it could scarcely be admitted into my most sanguine imagination.

Mr. Keate, who was an eye-witness of my success, on this memorable occasion, said, that it appeared to him so extraordinary, that he could only regard it as little short of a miracle.

A reverend gentleman of the Church of England said to me, “you talk about curing

“ruptures, I have worn your trusses for the  
 “last ten years, and am just the same.” I  
 asked him if he followed my instructions; he  
 then said he did not know of any. I asked him  
 to let me examine him; I then gave him my  
 advice, and, after a few months had elapsed,  
 he came back and told me that I had cured  
 him, and that he had gone without my truss.

Mr. Brodie, whose professional rank as a  
 surgeon is already too high to be raised by  
 the commendation of an individual of far more  
 importance in the world than the humble  
 writer of this brief sketch, has sent me innu-  
 merable persons labouring under Hernia, for  
 that mechanical assistance which it was neither  
 in his province, nor in his power to afford.  
 When a ruptured patient applies to him, he  
 generally says, “You are in want of mecha-  
 “ nical assistance, go to Mr. Egg, the corner  
 “ of Piccadilly and Tichborne-street, and,  
 “ when he has made you comfortable, come  
 “ to me again.”

Numerous persons whom I have cured, at the

recommendation, and, consequently, under the inspection of Mr. Brodie, are still living, and can be referred to, should it be thought desirable.

When Sir Astley Cooper found that he wanted a strong truss, and an easy one, it was useless for him to apply to a manufacturer of braces and trusses; he therefore should have resorted, at once, to a mechanic—to one who, having devoted his whole life to the study of mechanism, and the various objects to which it is applicable, must necessarily know something, not merely of its extensive powers, but likewise how to construct and to combine, to direct, and to regulate them. Sir Astley Cooper had the power, but he had not its means of application—that one, that only thing now needful, remained hidden.

How apposite to this is a remark of Mr. Herschel, in his admirable work, to which I have more than once drawn attention, *p.* 354 :  
 “ In my enumeration of causes, which have  
 “ contributed to the recent rapid advance-  
 “ ment of science, we must not forget the very

“ important one of improved and constantly  
 “ improving . . . instruments . . . for the ge-  
 “ neral convenience and well-judged adapta-  
 “ tion, to its purposes.”

This is no uncertain, speculative theory : it is the tangible and infallible matter of fact, “ and well-judged adaptation,” whereby many hundreds have already been cured, under my hands, and under the eyes of the most eminent surgeons of the age, of a complaint, up to this time pronounced, and truly, beyond the reach of surgical skill. Nature does much ; but nature must be assisted by mechanical art, and that art must be correctly applied and adapted, and attended with the unremitting perseverance of the patient himself, ere any cure will be effected ; for, unless we give nature the opportunity, which perseverance affords, to perform its natural functions, how can we expect them to be performed !

Notwithstanding that surgeons, with one consent, are agreed in the fact, that Hernia is incurable, most of them can furnish some in-

stance of persons having been cured, even by the Hottentot methods in common use. Now, supposing only five hundred surgeons in London, able to adduce one cure of Hernia, within his own knowledge, surely five hundred cures ought to have formed too great an exception to a general rule to have been passed, by men of the most liberal education, extensive reading and travel, and science, without closely investigating the principle of those numerous exceptions, and endeavouring, at least, to convert the exceptions into the rule, instead of sluggishly continuing, against such overwhelming evidence, to pronounce ruptures incurable! This does not tell very creditably for the zeal which prevails in the most important branches of science.

Such cures were accomplished by the mechanical power of the bandage, which, by chance, was locally adapted to the cases of fortunate individuals, while the infinitely greater number were necessitated to bear their infirmities, or be borne down by them, to the grave. In fact, they applied to the surgeon, when the

assistance of which they stood in need could only be derived from the practical and experienced mechanic.

I would not, by this, wish to insinuate that the interference of a surgeon is useless to a person afflicted with Hernia. It not unfrequently makes a sudden appearance; and, in the first instance, I would always recommend the earliest application to be made to a surgeon, whose directions should be implicitly followed, until the necessary mechanical means can be resorted to; for, though a surgeon cannot effect a permanent cure, he may, at any rate, afford temporary relief, and surgical advice cannot fail to be combined, advantageously, with the requisite mechanical application.

There are at least ten cases out of eleven that are curable, as easy as a child, in proportionable time; how to prove this I judge this way: if an old standing case of fifteen or twenty years, the Rupture fifteen inches in circumference, has been down night and day, can be so conquered that, in three months, the

patient can walk a mile without the truss, and the rupture not come down, I call that a very promising proof of an ultimate cure.

The simple, patent, self-resisting, and adjusting, German truss, is neither complicated by strap or any thing else. It differs from every other instrument, in combining within itself a resisting and a repellant power, which, if my instructions be strictly adhered to, cannot fail to cure any rupture, however formidable it may appear, and of however long standing.

Persons at a distance need only send the exact circumference of the body, taken immediately below the hip, and state whether the rupture is on the right or left side; and in the case of a double rupture, whether either, and which side is worst.

This truss, properly fitted on, should be perfectly easy to the wearer, without any counter-pressure, except that of the pad, which should fit closely on the part affected.



Should its pressure be too great, it must be bent from, and if too little, towards the Hernia.

The sum of the matter is, that a rupture must be met wherever it protrude itself, and find a sufficient resistance presented at every new avenue to which it may resort, until the last door is finally closed against its protrusion ; and this must either be accomplished by means within the patient's endurance, or it may as well be left alone.

By those who are not conversant with mechanism, my instrument may be mistaken for the common truss ; though its appearance is somewhat better, from its peculiar kind of spring. Yet this renders it necessary that the patient should be particular, in applying to the fountain-head, the inventor and patentee himself.

Children have been brought to me with sticking plaister placed over the rupture ; and this was secured by a bandage, drawn so tight as seriously to incommode, and ultimately

injure the weak, and not yet duly formed frame of the infant. Now, I can supply an instrument, which shall press as slightly as the sticking-plaister, without requiring any bandage whatever, and yet present a self-resisting power sufficiently strong to effect the cure of an infant, in an incredibly short interval of time; and it might even be applicable to a grown person, and still cause no greater pressure than would be produced by sticking-plaister.

Among the numberless persons who have come to me for relief from the common spring-truss, which is frequently an aggravation of their misery, was one whose body was compressed, by straps, till it much more nearly resembled the shape of a wasp than of a human creature. He was compelled to relinquish the truss, or rather bandage, altogether, though there is no doubt that, could he have sustained its pressure, he would, ultimately, have been cured by it, that is to say, he might have been cured by an adequate pressure, properly applied; for, in his case also, he was subjected to further injury, without the most

remote chance of benefit, the compression being so great as to render the spring, which was intended to act upon the ruptured part, entirely useless. This may be intelligibly elucidated by carriage-springs, which, if so strapped as to be deprived of their play, leave the carriage a mere cart, as to the ease of it.

Although it might, perhaps, occupy twenty years, or more, for a person to acquire such a competent knowledge of mechanics as would be necessary to enable him to cure the variety of cases which might be brought under his view, yet sufficient instructions are here given, to qualify any person to attend his own particular case, so far as regards the regulation of the instrument. Indeed, each new regulation renders it an entirely different instrument; so that, should it be regulated five hundred times, the wearer has the benefit of as many new instruments, though he only incurs the expense of one; but the patient must persevere until he ascertains, by the surest possible criterion—his own experience, that he has the instrument which will effect his cure. This will not take

many days, and when it has been once satisfactorily ascertained, to his own conviction, he will only have to let the instrument remain, without change of the regulating power, until the cure be complete.

The second best truss, and which is of considerable importance to be generally known, consists in bathing the parts with cold water. This always materially assists, and sometimes effects a cure of itself. Those who have walked gradually into a cold bath, instead of plunging into it head foremost, will readily comprehend, by the sensation they have experienced at that time, how the application of cold water forces up and braces the Hernia.

One person is much more susceptible of sanative influence than another, and his cure will be more rapidly or slowly effected accordingly: as the naturally comfortable, before the naturally irritable—the man whose habit may be speedily heightened and speedily reduced, and therefore a better subject for medical and surgical operation, before one of an opposite caste.

Although it may be many years hence perhaps—long after I have been taken from this sublunary world—ere the faculty have discovered, and admitted, that Hernia is not, and never should have been pronounced incurable, it must, at that period, whenever it may arrive, be universally conceded, that in the mechanical treatment of which I am the original inventor, is comprised the only certain, easy, and infallible mode of cure. Indeed, any one who has been accustomed to walk much about London, must have observed, how very few bad and unsightly cases of Hernia now obtrude themselves on the eye, and have done for several years past, comparatively, with what used to present themselves, incessantly, to the passenger. Could the man of surgical observation, who had been buried half a century, or so, rise from his grave, at this time, the circumstance to which I have adverted would as greatly surprise him as the sight of enormous vessels, proceeding rapidly against both wind and tide, would astonish a sailor of the same era.

In conclusion, rejecting every idea of comparison and competition, between any pre-

viously-discovered instrument and my simple, patent, self-resisting, and self-adjusting truss, the comfort which it presents to delicacy, and more especially to the delicacy of females, is incalculable. They need not be subject to the touch of any other hands than their own; they can take their own measure, can apply the instrument themselves; should it not, at first, in every respect, suit the person (which rarely happens), it will be replaced by another, corrected according to the observations of the wearer, who will herself, as I have before pointed out, by the most simple method, adapt it, literally, to her own sense of what her complaint requires, until it shall enable nature to perform its part: and the result of the joint labours of nature and this strong and easy truss, which the eminent Mr. Brodie, and the other distinguished members of the faculty, so warmly and so justly commend, cannot fail to be a perfect cure.

JOSEPH EGG.

*Manufactory,*  
No. 1, Corner of Piccadilly and Tichborne Street,

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